

Joe Amos Barn (Richard York Barn)
Montour Vicinity
Gem County
Idaho

HABS No. ID-48

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ID,
23-MONT.V,
1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS

ID,

23-MONT.V,

1A -

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOE AMOS BARN
(Richard York Barn)

Location: At the south portion of the valley in which the town lies.
Montour vicinity, Gem County, Idaho
UTM: 11/553525/4862575

Present Owner: United States Department of the Interior

Present Occupant: Unoccupied

Present Use: Unused

Statement of Significance: The barn is of interest as an example of early 20th century construction using minimal material and craftsmanship.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Date of erection: Late 19th century or early 20th century

Builder and architect: Unknown

Historical narrative:

This property on bench land south of Montour was acquired by J. J. Amos in 1919. The same year, Amos' house was completed, by local carpenter Victor Sheldrew. There is no available documentation of the construction date for the barn. Construction and form suggest the barn was built in the late 19th century or very early 20th century (apparently in two phases: see architectural discussion). The 3-bay form, with wide, gently sloping roof and triangular hay hood, is a wholly traditional western style of barn construction.

Bibliography:

Emmett Index, 20 December 1918, 8:2; 22 May 1919, 8:2.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATIONGeneral statement

1. Architectural interest and merit: The barn is of interest as an example of twentieth-century construction using minimal material and craftsmanship. The western aisle appears to be older than the rest. The stark simplicity of the barn against the hillside is most picturesque.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor
3. Summary description: One story, three bays wide and three bays long, 27 feet 6 inches by 45 feet 4 inches, rectangular plan.

Detailed description of exterior

1. Foundations: Investigation showed no evidence of rock or concrete footings under the exterior wall posts. At accessible footings at the east and north walls, short lengths of timber are used as footings, laid on the ground. These short posts support a timber sill. The interior of the barn was so littered with straw that the foundations of the freestanding posts were not accessible.
2. Wall construction: The walls are of 1-inch by 12-inch planks fastened with wire nails. The surfaces are rough-sawn, weathered, and do not bear any evidence of having been painted.
3. Structural system: The structural system is timber frame, but the construction of the three bays along the west side differs from the construction elsewhere and seems to be older.

At the line of western bays, the posts rest on a sill, which on the west wall is made up of three 2x6s laid flat and at the north and south ends of this group of bays is made up of a 6x6. Under the freestanding columns that bound these bays on the west, the sill is an 8-inch deep timber. Posts at the wall and the free-standing posts here are 6x6s. At mid height of the wall there is a 2x4 girt, and the posts are notched to receive it. The top plate of the wall is built up of two 2x6s nailed to form an inverted L shape in cross section. The vertical leg of the L is at the outer side, and the tops of the posts are notched to receive it. The horizontal leg rests on top of the posts. The beam supported by the two free-standing posts is the same as the top plate of the wall, the vertical 2x6 notched into the posts at the east face. In addition, there is another 2x6 nailed to the tops of these posts at the west face, but placed low enough so the rafters pass over it and do not require notching.

At the line of eastern bays, the wall sill is two 2x6s laid flat, the wall posts are two 2x4s nailed together,

the wall plate is a 2x6 nailed to the top of the wall posts, and the girt at mid height is a 2x8 placed horizontally at the east wall and a 2x6 placed vertically at the north and south ends of this group of bays. No members are notched. The freestanding posts here placed over a sill of two 2x6s are made up of two 2x6s with smooth finish, nailed together, and noticeably bending under their load. These posts have angle bracing to the beam of two 2-inch members (probably 2x8s) which they carry. There is also angle bracing at the ends of the east wall. At the driveway ends, the wall girts are made up of two two-inch-thick members nailed in the form of an inverted L.

The rafters at the western line of bays are of rough 2x6s notched over the eave plate and over the beam which carries the opposite end of them. Roof stripping is 1x6 inch boards spaced 4 inches apart. Roof construction of the rest of the barn is similar, but the stripping measures 7/8 inch by 12 inches spaced 3 inches apart, and the rafters are of smooth-finished 2x6s. There is a ridgepole of one-inch material.

Under the wall plates there are short timber posts which rest upon the wood blocks which serve as a foundation. These posts were visible in a few locations and were 6x6s.

4. Porches: None
5. Chimneys: None; however, there is a metal fitting at the east wall which may be a thimble for a stovepipe.
6. Openings, doorways and doors: The doors are built up of planks matching the siding and these planks are nailed to cleats in a Z or X pattern. There is a wide single door near the center of the east wall leading to the cow stalls there. There is a door on the south wall, near the west end of it, leading to the horse stalls there.
7. Openings, windows: There are no windows. There is an opening at the top of the south gable with no shutters or doors in evidence for it.
8. Roof, shape, covering: The roof is a gable with the ridge running north-south, crossing the narrower dimension of the building. The roofing is shingles, greatly weathered. Portions of the roof have corrugated iron covering the shingles.
9. Roof, eaves: At the west the 2x6 rafters project to form the eaves; but at the east there are 2x2s projecting, which are the extension of the rafters notched as they pass over the wall plate. At the south side, the roof projects at the gable in a triangular form in plan, protecting the opening in the wall there.

10. Roof, dormers, cupolas, towers: None

Detailed description of interior

1. Floor plan: The plan is a rectangle with the ridge of the roof crossing the width. The central aisle is the hay mow, the full height of the barn. The east aisle contains cow stalls with the feed trough facing the mow; and the west aisle contains horse stalls with the feed trough also facing the mow. There is a loft above the cow stalls, and there is evidence of one above the northern and center bay of the horse stalls.
2. Stairways: None; however, there is a ladder at the south-east corner and cleats nailed to a post at the middle of the north wall.
3. Flooring: The house stalls at the west side of the building are floored with two-inch planks on a system of joists at the level of the wall sill. At the cow stalls at the east side the floor construction is similar, but is about sixteen inches lower. The center aisle shows evidence at the north end of having had two-inch-thick flooring, but a large amount of hay on the floor made it difficult to determine this accurately. At the west loft the flooring was one-inch tongue-and-groove wood and that at the east loft was 1x12 boards.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: At the eastern aisle, ½-inch insulation board was fastened to the inside of the planks of the exterior wall, and then a layer of planks nailed to the inside surface of the insulation.
5. Interior trim: There is none, The stanchions for the cow stalls are in fair condition. There are cow's names above some of the stanchions.
6. Hardware: Nothing of note.
7. Mechanical and electrical equipment: There is an overhead rail running at the ridge of the roof, with a few sections missing. The rail is made up of a pair of metal angle bars and is suspended from the ridge by means of hooks.

Site and surroundings

1. Orientation and general setting: The barn faces south toward the upward slope of a hill, which begins to rise close to the front of the barn. The land at the barn itself slopes slightly from south to north. The hill is one of several hills which form the south boundary of the

valley in which the town of Montour lies. The town is to the northeast.

2. Historic landscape design: None
3. Outbuildings: The ruins of a small wooden shed lie to the north. To the northeast is a severely weathered one-room wooden cabin with a work bench in it. The cabin is crudely build with 2x4s used flat and of several types of siding - drop siding and matchboards.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by Dennett, Muessig & Associates, Iowa City, Iowa, in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region. It fulfills the Bureau of Reclamation's obligations under a memorandum of agreement between the Bureau, the State of Idaho, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR 800. The structure was photographed, measured, and drawn March - September, 1979 by Sarah J. Dennett and Hans Muessig, Project Supervisors; Wesley I. Shank, Project Architectural Historian/Historical Architect, (Iowa State University); Martha H. Bowers, Project Historian; Robert A. Ryan, Project Photographer; and Philipp Muessig, Project Assistant.

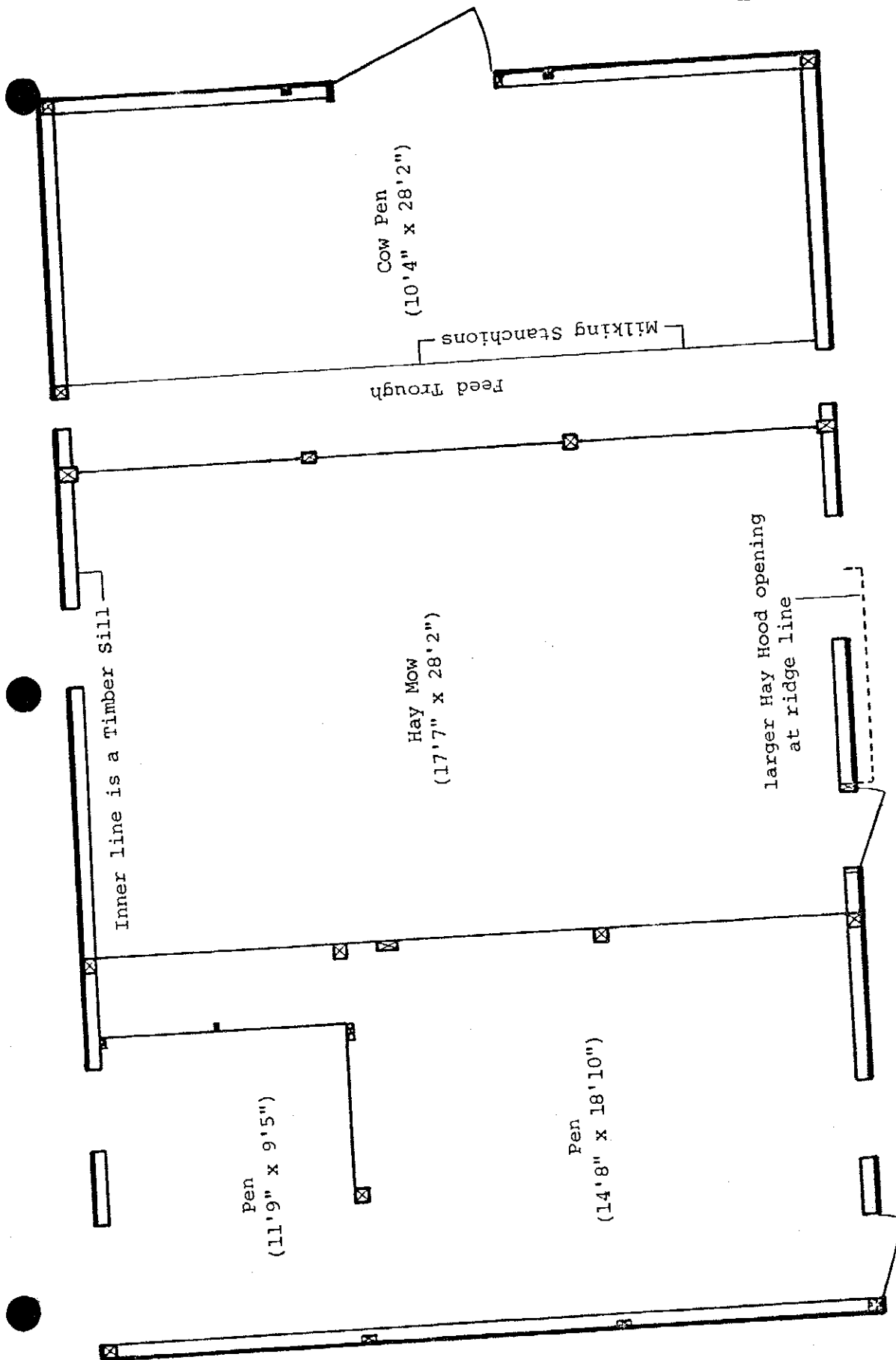
APPENDIX

CHAIN OF TITLE: JOE AMOS BARN

Description: West $\frac{1}{2}$ of Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 27
and Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 28, T7N
R1E, Boise Meridian

Reference: Recorder's Office, Gem County Courthouse, Emmett,
Idaho

- 1919 Deed 5 December 1919
Recorded 3 February 1920
Book 13 Deeds, p. 253
Dewey Investment Co.
to
J. J. Amos
- 1937 Certificate of Sale 27 March 1937
Recorded 29 March 1937
Book 1 Certificates of Sale, p. 500
Federal Land Bank of Spokane vs. J. J. Amos & wife
Ida Ora, & others
- 1938 Sheriff's Deed 28 March 1938
Recorded 14 April 1938
Book 24 Deeds, p. 329
Sheriff of Gem County, Idaho
to
Federal Land Bank of Spokane
- 1948 Deed 8 March 1948
Recorded 3 June 1948
Book 32 Deeds, p. 43
Federal Land Bank of Spokane
to
Richard A. York & Avis N. York
- 1977 Deed 25 November 1977
Recorded 29 November 1977
Deed Instrument #122237
Richard A. York & Avis N. York
to
U. S. A.



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JOE AMOS BARN
approx. 3/16 scale